

DT 99-067

PERMANENT LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY

Implementation of §251(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Order Suspending Effective Date

O R D E R N O. 23,233

June 14, 1999

On May 10, 1999, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 23,210 Nisi ordering full implementation of permanent local number portability (LNP) by incumbent and competitive local exchange carriers (ILECs and CLECs, respectively) by October 31, 1999.

On May 27, 1999, Granite State Telephone Company, Inc., Merrimack County Telephone Company, Contoocook Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Wilton Telephone Company, Inc., Hollis Telephone Company, Inc., Dunbarton Telephone Company, Inc., Northland Telephone Company of Maine, Inc., Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc., and Dixville Telephone Company (hereinafter Granite State, *et al*) filed an Objection to Order Nisi and Request for Hearing with the Commission. On the same date, May 27, 1999, Chichester Telephone Company, Meriden Telephone Company, and Kearsarge Telephone Company (the "TDS Companies") filed Comments with the Commission.

These filings raise, inter alia, issues related to the timing of the implementation of LNP and the requirements imposed by the Telecommunications Act and its subsequent implementation

by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Specifically, the filings address the following: (1) the implications for LNP based upon the parties' status as rural telecommunications carriers, (2) cost recovery mechanisms relating to implementation of LNP, and (3) the technical feasibility of meeting the October 31, 1999 deadline.

Granite State, *et al* conclude that the Commission is "without authority to prescribe a separate New Hampshire schedule for the implementation of local number portability."

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the effective date of the Order NISI No. 23,210 is hereby temporarily suspended with respect to Granite State Telephone Company, Inc., Merrimack County Telephone Company, Contoocook Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Wilton Telephone Company, Inc., Hollis Telephone Company, Inc., Dunbarton Telephone Company, Inc., Northland Telephone Company of Maine, Inc., Bretton Woods Telephone Company, Inc., and Dixville Telephone Company and Chichester Telephone Company, Meriden Telephone Company, and Kearsarge Telephone Company; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Staff conduct an investigation of the three issues raised in the Comments and Objection to the Commission's order and report its findings to the Commission by July 16, 1999.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New

Hampshire this fourteenth day of June, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary